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**Congress of the United States**

**House of Representatives**

November 17, 1995

**Washington, DC 20515**

Honorable Federico **Pena**, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
400 7th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590-000 1

**RE: GREAT LAKES PILOTAGE**


Dear Secretary **Pena**,

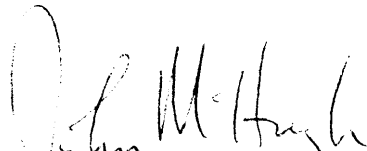
We have watched with great interest the Department of Transportation's (DOT's) plan to transfer certain Great Lakes **pilotage** functions from the Coast Guard to the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC). We understand that plan has now been suspended pending further review.


Of further interest and importance is the fact that current law appears to specifically prohibit this transfer. According to 46 U.S.C. § 2104 the Secretary of Transportation may only delegate these **pilotage** functions to **officials** within the Coast Guard and there is no provision for delegations outside the Coast Guard. In addition, Congress intended **Pilotage** Act functions to remain within the Coast Guard "at all times" *H. Rep. No. 98-338, 98th congress, 1st Session*.

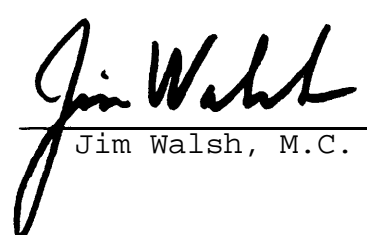
We hope that a clarified view of this statute will provide an impetus to resolve discussion surrounding the **pilotage** transfer issue. We thank you for your attention to this matter.


Sincerely,


  
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Jack Quinn, M.C.

  
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John McHugh, M.C.

  
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Amo Houghton, M.C.

  
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Jim Walsh, M.C.

  
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James Barcia, M.C.

  
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Carl Levin, U.S.S.